

REMARKS

In the October 19, 2004 Office Action, claims 1, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, and claims 1, 3 and 6-18 were rejected under 35 USC §103.

In this Response, claims 1, 14, 15 and 17 are amended and remarks are provided.

In regard to the Section 112 rejection, the subject claims were rejected on the ground that the amendment thereto in the last Response, i.e., "wherein said amplitude modulation is independent of said frequency f_s " lacks support in the application as filed.

The intent of the amendment was to recite that the f_s that is introduced at the input port 2 is not the same as the frequency f_s that is part of the clock pulses generated by the nonlinear medium 16 and output through the output port 4. That is, at the adjuster 14 the modulation frequency f_s of the signal light, i.e., a "first" frequency f_s , is adjusted to become equal to an integral of the reciprocal...of a recirculation period of the optical loop, i.e., a "second" f_s that is different than the first f_s , per se of the signal light. Thus, the second f_s is merely a "component" of the first f_s , and is not the same as the first f_s . See, e.g., page 9, lines 2-3, 6-14. The nonlinear optical medium can then generate clock pulses including the wavelength λ_c and the second frequency f_s , and output same through the output port. See, e.g., page 9, lines 22-24, and page 10, lines 3-5 and 10-19.

The independent claims 1, 14, 15 and 17 have been amended to delete the rejected recitation to "...independent...", as there is some use of the first f_s of the input signal light in the optical loop 8. However, these claims are amended to recite that the adjuster generates the second frequency f_s , which is used by the nonlinear optical medium to generate clock pulses including the wavelength λ_c and the second frequency f_s , and outputs same through the output port 4.

Using only the first frequency f_s is a drawback associated with the prior art in general, as discussed at, e.g., page 2, lines 13-24 and page 3, lines 1-2.

Not only is it believed that the Section 112 rejection has been overcome by these additional amendments, but it is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art fails to teach or disclose the combinations now recited.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, and 6-18 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

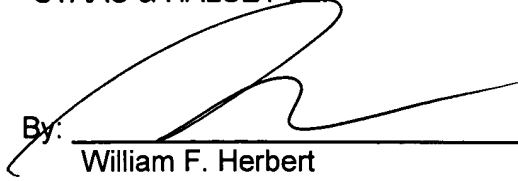
Respectfully submitted,

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